

As a flight attendant, I look at this issue from several points of view. I understand the need for people to communicate information regarding their travel schedule, meeting updates, etc. However, the thought of having 100 people talking on cell phones at the same time is the epitome of "noise pollution" and will contribute to a state of agitation among passengers. I anticipate that the anger level in people could create a tense and possibly dangerous situation on board an aircraft if people's tolerance levels decline. Flight Attendants will be called on to defray conflicts that we have no control over. The other day, sitting in a gate area, I heard a woman say to her husband (in reference to a gentleman on the other side of the gate talking very loudly on his cell phone - for 10 min. prior to boarding and continuing while he boarded the aircraft): "Can you imagine what an airplane will be like if the government allows cell phones inflight? Just this one man talking is very irritating."

My suggestion would be a compromise of sorts. Allow cell phone useage the last 10 minutes of flight or once the aircraft touches down, with the exception of those seated at emergency exits. I believe cell phones should continue to be turned off when the aircraft door is closed or there is no need for flight attendants to do a safety demo.

In conclusion, the use of cell phones indiscriminately on an airplane is absolutely the most ludicrous idea. People in general are very self centered. They are not considerate of other people's "space". Therefore, it needs to be mandated by the government